

SAMBAH will be funded by LIFE+

SAMBAH – Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise – is an international project involving all EU countries around the Baltic Sea, with the ultimate goal to secure the conservation of the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise.



After more than two years of planning and writing the application, SAMBAH has now received final word from the EU

Commission that it will be funded by LIFE+, and the contracts between the coordinating beneficiary Kolmården Wildlife Park in Sweden and the EU commission were signed in November 2009. SAMBAH will receive 50% of the budget from LIFE+, and the remaining 50% will be co-financed by project partners and other national organizations. The total project budget is 4.24 million €.



Objectives

The objectives of SAMBAH are to estimate densities and total abundance and produce distribution maps of harbour porpoises in the study area, to identify possible hotspots, habitat preferences and areas of higher risk of conflict with anthropogenic activities, to increase the knowledge about the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise among policymakers, managers, stakeholders and the public, and to implement best practice methods for cost efficient, large scale surveillance of harbour porpoises in a low density area.

The study area stretches from the Darss- and Limhamn ridges in the southwest to the northern border of the Åland archipelago in the north.

Time plan

The project kick-off meeting will be held in conjunction with the Jastarnia group meeting in February 2010. During 2010 details of the methodology will be settled, the field activities will be planned and prepared and extensive information activities will take place in the participating countries to ensure that information about the project is widely spread, especially among fishermen and other users of the marine environment.

The deployment of the approximately 300 SAM units throughout the study area will start in January 2011. They will remain in operation until December 2012, being serviced about every three months. Analyses will be made mainly during 2013, and the project will end in December 2014.

Project partners

Sweden:

Kolmårdens Djurpark (Coordinator)
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Finland:

Turku University
Ministry of Environment
Särkänniemi Adventure Park (Tampere dolphinarium)

Poland:

University of Gdańsk
Inst. of Meteorology and Water Management
Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection

Denmark:

National Environment Research Institute
Danish Forest and Nature Agency

The Baltic States will be included in the project through subcontractors to Kolmården. They will deploy and service click detectors in Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian waters.

Germany will join forces with SAMBAH, with separate funding, e.g. from the German Ministry of Environment and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria. Meeresmuseum in Stralsund will host the project.

Contact us

If you have further questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact us at mats.amundin@kolmarden.com.